Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
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CONFIDENTIAL USBERLIN 0708

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, U(, UR, US, FR

SUBJECT: SOVIETS AGREED TO PERMIT WOLF-RUEDIGER HESS TO VISIT

REFS: A) USBERLIN 548, B) BONN 4244 AND PREVIOUS

1. AT GOVERNORS' MEETING MARCH 9, SOVIETS AGREED THAT WOLF-RUEDIGER HESS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO MAKE MONTHLY VISIT TO FATHER DURING MARCH BUT INSISTED THAT VISIT TAKE PLACE ONLY AFTER MARCH 15. GOVERNORS THEREFORE SENT SON A TELEGRAM SAYING THAT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE REASONS, VISIT COULD NOT TAKE PLACE ON MARCH 10 AS REQUESTED, BUT COULD TAKE PLACE AT ANY TIME CONVENIENT FOR SON AFTER MARCH 15. (COMMENT: SOVIETS SAID THAT ORIGINALLY THEIR INCLINATION HAD BEEN TO REFUSE ALL FUTURE VISITS BY SON IN LIGHT OF HIS RECENT ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, ON REFLECTION THEY TOO HAD CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS UNFAIR TO PENALIZE FATHER FOR ACTS OF SON. END COMMENT).

2. RE IMPROVEMENTS IN PRISON REGIME WHICH BRITISH CONFIDENTIAL

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ARE INSTRUCTED TO RAISE IN BONN, WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE TACTICALLY BETTER TO RESTRICT FIRST WESTERN PROPOSAL TO A FEW KEY ITEMS OF REAL IMPORTANCE, RATHER THAN CONFRONT SOVIETS WITH LONG SHOPPING LIST. CONTROLLED TV AND ADDITIONAL VISITS STRIKE US AS KEY ITEMS ON LIST. OVER PAST YEARS SOVIETS HAVE AGREED TO A NUMBER OF SUCH IMPROVEMENTS, ONE-BY-ONE, AND MIGHT

BE WILLING TO ACCEPT MORE, BUT A LONG LIST COULD ELICIT A COUNTER-REACTION.

3. RE CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR PASSING AWAY OF HESS, FRENCH HERE WILL DISCUSS WITH BOISSIEU OF BONN GROUP WITH A VIEW TO ASKING SOVIETS FOR A REPLY TO PAPER LEFT BY SIR OLIVER WRIGHT ON JANUARY 19 AT MARCH 11 LUNCH WITH ABRASIMOV. IN VIEW OF RECENT PUBLICITY ON HESS, FRENCH THINK IT POSSIBLE THAT SOVIETS WILL RAISE HESS IN ANY CASE. IN EVENT THAT AMB WORMSER PREFERS NOT TO RAISE MATTER, AND SOVIETS DO NOT, OUR THINKING IS TO HAVE BRITISH, AS PRIMUS INTER PARES ON SPANDAU MATTERS, INQUIRE ABOUT STATUS OF CONTINGENCY PLANNING DIRECTLY WITH SOVIETS NEXT WEEK.

4. FOR BONN: FRENCH TEAM AT LUNCHEON HOSTED BY FRENCH WILL CONSIST OF AMBASSADOR, MINISTER LANDY, AND DE BOISSIEU WITH PROTOCOL OFFICER SYRIGOS ACTING AS INTERPRETER. WITH THIS LINEUP AND AMB WORMSER'S PENCHANT FOR SHORT REPORTS, WE ARE NOT LIKELY TO LEARN MUCH ABOUT WHAT TRANSPIRED.

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Status: NATIVE Subject: SOVIETS AGREED TO PERMIT WOLF-RUEDIGER HESS TO VISIT FATHER

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, UK, UR, US, GE, (HESS, WOLF-RUEDIGER)

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